

REMARKS

Applicants have studied the Office Action dated February 27, 2006, and have made amendments to the claims. Claims 2 and 14 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1 and 13 have been amended. No new matter has been added. It is submitted that the application, as amended, is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 7, 13 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,859,662 to Cragun (hereinafter "Cragun"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

On page 6 of the Office Action, the examiner stated that claims 2, 5, 6, 14, 17 and 18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, the limitations of claim 2 have been incorporated into independent claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 and the claims dependent from claim 1 are now allowable.

Furthermore, the limitations of claim 14 have been incorporated into independent claim 13. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 13 and the claims dependent from claim 13 are now allowable.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cragun in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,233,389 to Barton (hereinafter "Barton"). Claims 4 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cragun. Furthermore, claims 8-12 and 20-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cragun in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,961,954 to Maybury (hereinafter "Maybury"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As stated above, independent claims 1 and 13 have been amended and are now allowable. Accordingly, the § 103(a) rejections with respect to any claims dependent from

claims 1 and 13, respectively, are now moot. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claims 3, 4, 8-12, 15, 16 and 20-24 are allowable over the prior art.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above remarks, Applicants submit that the present Amendment places all claims of the present application in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is requested.

No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein; and no amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless Applicants have argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California, telephone number (213) 623-2221 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

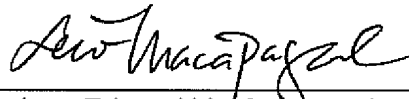
Respectfully submitted,

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